

Minutes of the Annual Town Council Meeting June 02, 2018

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 AM by Mayor Harry Ward. Council members in attendance were Kathy Lock, Bob Wood, Becky Craft and Ken Lewis. Community members in attendance are shown on the attached sign-in sheet.

2. Welcoming and Announcements

Harry acknowledged and thanked everyone for their support.

1 Fire

On Christmas Night, there was a fire that completely damaged 2 houses, another was severely damaged but is in the process of rebuilding, two others were less damaged and have been repaired. We certainly owe a great deal of thanks to everyone at Memorial fire Company as well as the many other fire houses that came to our aid that night.

2 Phragmites

We have worked with the state on controlling this invasive plant through spraying the last 3 years, we hope to again spray this fall. Please check the Town's website and sign up if you would like to be included this year.

3 Harbor Project

The Mispillion Harbor project has been completed that extensively rebuilt the entire harbor area. It was a 7-million-dollar project that totally reworked the entire harbor area. During the process, the main channel leading to the bay needed to be dredged and there was a really great cooperative effort between the Federal, State, Town and local businesses to get this resolved.

4 Sand on the Beach

There is a planned maintenance dredging project in the main Channel of the Delaware Bay and we hope to receive some of the sand being removed. At this point, the project looks like it might move forward and we have been trying to stay in touch with the different Federal and State partners on this project.

5 Water Grant

We applied and received a grant to study the water system in Slaughter Beach from both USDA and Clean water Delaware. At just about the completion of the study, the Slaughter Beach Water Company was sold to Artesian Water Company in Newark, Delaware.

6 Sewer Grant

We applied and received this grant from USDA to study the possibilities of a Town Sewer system. This grant is now at the USDA for review.

7 Resiliency Grant

Two years ago, we received this grant and became the first community to partner with DNREC on a grant of this type,. We received a draft but are waiting for the final report from DNREC.

8 5K

The First Annual 5K (Run from the greenheads) was held on May 6th of this year and was not only a fun day but very successful. We were able to donate over \$6,700.00 each to the Memorial VFD and the Delaware Nature Society. Next years 5K is planned for Cinco Di Mayo so come on down, bring your sombreros and enjoy the fun.

9 Donations to Memorial VFD

In addition to the 5K donation, We Have also donated 3,000 to the Fire Company and 500 to the Ladies Aux.

The fire company also asked for the town to donate half of the cost (\$8000,00) of a Lucas Board. A Lucas board is a device that will administer chest compressions while the EMT's can better concentrate on the patient's welfare.

10 Finance Review

The towns finances are in excellent shape and this year's audit has found everything was in perfect order. We established a rainy-day fund and currently have a tax collection rate that is very high.

11 CLUP (Comprehensive Land Use Plan)

The state mandated that every 10 years each community update their CLUP. This year we were due to review and rewrite our report. This is a very comprehensive process that is than reviewed by different agencies of the state. We recently had our review and it was well received by the state with just a few minor suggestions.



12 Safety Plan

Both the state and Sussex County require that we have an Emergency Operations Management Plan in place to be used in case of impending danger or disasters.

After creating this plan and going through a review process, we have this almost complete and should be to finish it in the next few months.

13 Cameras

After checking the current town security cameras, it was discovered that they were not working properly and needed replacement. After a rather extensive bid process, we determined the best solution and this process should be in place by the middle of June.

14 Enviro study and Sofa Grant

A resident of our town, Carol Meteryer, is conducting a study of the health of the Horse Shoe Crabs. Carol is a Veterinary Forensic Pathologist with the Federal Government and brought a team of scientist here for the study. The study is just about finished and Carol will share the finding with the council and town shortly.

The town also received a SOFA grant for \$100,00.00 to study the hydrology of the marsh this fall. In addition to that, we were selected to be the focus of a study of a group of Landscape Architects to study approaches that might help prevent or lessen flooding in town. This study should also start in the fall.

15 Residence contact list

After the Christmas Fire, the Fire Company requested that the town establish a comprehensive list for all of the towns properties and the contact information of the owners. In this way, if there is an issue, the owner could be contacted right way and be apprised of the situation. We discovered that although we had many already, the list was far from complete. We mailed a form to be returned to us but as of now, the response has been a little slow. Several property owners have stated that they didn't receive the letter so we will email and send another letter in the near future.

16 Cloud Management

In the process of gathering the residential info, we decided that because a lot of the other town info is being stored on the towns aged computer or on several town residences own personal computers, we began the process with the help of town resident, Trisha Ann Sanders to gather this info and place in storage on the cloud. In this way current and future town councils will have data easily available.

17 ABC initiative

The Association of Bay Communities, which is comprised of members from 9 different bay communities including Slaughter Beach has started an initiative to stay in contact with all those involved with the dredge material process from the bay channel. This group has decided to champion the Eco, Marshland, farm land preservation and Habitat presentation as their approach to the process. This program is a 50-year \$100,000,000.00 project.

18 Water Company Change

In march of this year, the Draper family deiced to sell the Slaughter Beach Water Company to Artesian Water Co based in Newark DE. So far, the transition has gone very smoothly and the town would like to thank Frank for his many years of service and welcomes Artesian to our community.

19 Town Election

Due to the fact that there were only 3 applicants for the 3 open positions on this year's ballet for town council. There will not be a general election this year. The 3 applicants are the 3 current members of the town council whose terms were about to expire

20 Beach Grass

This year as in the past 3, the town has purchased and distributed beach grass planned by town residents to help with for dune restoration. This year we purchased 100 bundles and all we distributed. After checking just a few days ago, this grass is starting to sprout and looks very healthy.

21 Census

The town is in the process of gathering info as requested by the Department of Commerce for the 2020 census.

22 SCAT (Sussex County Association of Towns)

Although we have been members, we have not been active in the recent past but will make an effort to attend and be a part of this organization that unities all of the towns in the county.

24 Town Maintenance

the town residents have been active this year with several town maintaince projects. We have regraded and added necessary gravel to all of the access roads, repaired the roof and repainted the pavilion and the bathrooms and helped the family of Tom Draper and the Slaughter Beach remove litter from Slaughter Beach road.

3 Adjournment

Motion: *Kathy Lock made a motion to adjourn. Becky Craft seconded it. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 11:39 AM.*

Respectfully submitted,

Robert G. Wood
Secretary